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Some QUERIES relating to the present Dispute about the Trade to AFRICA.

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WHether 'tis not great Modesty in the *African* Company's Creditors, to petition for the sole Trade of *Africa*, and most of *America*, only?
Whether the said Creditors know those Trades by Inspiration, and desire therefore that the experienc'd Traders be excluded?

Whether a Trade can be said to be lost, wherein there are employed 70 odd Ships, under the Management of 3 or 400 skilful Merchants, Planters, and others, who are both Owners and Freighters themselves?

Whether 'tis not thro' a tender Regard to the Good of the Nation, lest the *African* Trade should be lost, that induces the said Creditors to petition the House for an Exclusive Trade?

Or that their Bonds, which cost 30 odd Pounds in *Exchange-ally*, should become 100 l. if they can obtain a Vote for a Joint-stock?

Whether 'tis not a good Reason for securing any Trade to a Nation, to establish it on a Bankrupt Society, who having failed 3 times since the Restoration, are become 2 or 300000 l. worse than nothing, and exclude Men of the best Credit, who employ a Current Stock of 6 or 700000 l. in the said Trade?

Whether such who are at 4 or 5000 l. *per Annum* Charge, to fit out 3 or 4 Ships a Year, can afford to sell Negroes cheaper than those who are not at 500 l. *per Ann.* Charge to fit out twenty times that Number of Ships?

Whether Ports or Settlements, which serve for the Use of our Enemies only, to sell their Prizes at, can be esteemed necessary, unless put upon another foot?

Whether 'tis not much better for the Benefit of the Woollen Manufacture to export 4000 Pieces of Perpetuana's a Year under an Exclusive Company, or 35000 Pieces under an open Trade?

Whether 'tis not better for the Plantations, that they and the *Spaniards* be furnished with 5150 Negroes a Year in Time of Peace by an Exclusive Company, than with 20000 Negroes a Year under an open Trade. And,

Whether one Seller will sell cheaper at Market than 40 Sellers?

Whether, by the Company's Proposals, Men of Credit must not be forced to become Partners with Bankrupts and Stock-Merchants, or leave off the Trade?

Whether, by the said Proposals, the New Adventurers do not lose all their Money as soon as they pay it in, by Means of the Over-Valuation of the Company's Stock and Forts?

Whether the Government cannot maintain Settlements abroad as well as a Private Company?

Whether the Factors of a Regulated Company cannot do all that the Factors of an Exclusive Company can do, touching Trade, Presents, and Alliances?

Whether any Trade was ever lost by being laid open, for want of Security given for carrying it on; as the *Eastland*, *Hamburgh*, *French*, *Spanish*, *Portugal*, and *Russia* Trades? Or whether the *Greenland* Trade was not entirely lost by being made Exclusive?

Or why was there no Security demanded of the *Turkey* Merchants for their carrying on the Trade when they were established under a Regulated Company?

What Security can there be, that our Foreign Trade should be better carried on by the Gentlemen of *Exchange-Ally*, than by the most skilful Merchants in *Britain*?

What Security can there be, if an Exclusive *African* Trade should be granted to the said Gentlemen of *Exchange-Ally*, that they would not sell out their Stock, and leave others to perform the Bargain which they had made?

Or what Security can there be that they will not divide out their Stock among themselves as they have now by Bottomree Bonds, and thereby render the imaginary Security a Dream?

Whether they don't own this to be their Design, in one of their printed Papers call'd, *Persuasive to a Coalition*, &c. p. 10. Speaking of an Exclusive Charter, in these Words?

“ And in that Case, any Person having an Interest in the Company's Stock, may
“ then unquestionably depend upon it, that the next Day after the passing of such an
“ Act, he may have at least the full Value thereof, as estimated by the Instrument of
“ Coalition, laid down to him in Money upon Demand. So that then will be the
“ proper Time for any Person that has a Mind to get out of the Company's Stock,
“ either as a Creditor or Adventurer.

If the present Company had given Security to carry on the Trade, what would that signify under their present Circumstances?

• SOME
QUERIES

Relating to the

Present Dispute

About the

Trade to Africa.

